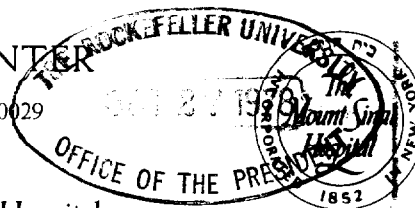




THE MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

ONE GUSTAVE L. LEVY PLACE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10029

Mount Sinai School of Medicine • The Mount Sinai Hospital



October 19, 1978

*Environmental Sciences Laboratory
Cummings Basic Sciences Building
10 East 102 Street
New York, New York 10029
(212) 650-6173*

Dr. Joshua Lederberg, President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Josh:

My congratulations on your induction, although I hope that your research plans will have a somewhat wider geographical extent than what was suggested, despite the difficulties in traversing New York.

To start with, Cuyler Hammond and I have an immediate request for your help. The accelerating expansion of chronic disease epidemiology, including but not limited to cancer studies, has been accompanied by the eager use of the observations in public policy decisions concerned with control. While this is by no means undesirable, it simultaneously makes the quality of these data a matter of importance. Therefore, we've been somewhat concerned that some studies are less than rigorous and that comparatively little innovation and methodological progress is occurring. ✓

In particular, there has been a virtual dearth of contact with broader biological population studies, and the "professional" epidemiologists have not always had the advantage of progress being made in other fields.

To influence this course of events, and we are presumptuous enough to believe it can be modified and that we might make some small contribution to this, we've considered a number of possibilities. Taking a leaf from other scientific fields, it's been suggested that a journal of environmental epidemiology, if it set and maintained high standards and was lucky enough to be both authoritative and influential, would be useful, especially if it were critical and frank (albeit polite). After much thought, Cuyler has agreed to edit it and I would help, with the collaboration of a small number of first-rate people. The purposes of this long preamble are first, to ask your advice concerning who, in your opinion, in the biological sciences (from population genetics to anthropology) should be consulted by us and, second, to ask whether

Dr. Joshua Lederberg

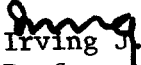
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October 19, 1978

you'd like to join with us on the Editorial Board.

Cuyler joins me in warm regards.

Cordially,


Irving J. Selikoff, M.D.
Professor



IJS:jm

cc: Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond

? Ken White
@ RF